



**BIOMETRICS**  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

## **News Release**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Scott Sadlon, BRTRC/DoD BMO

Phone: (703) 253-0944

E-Mail: [ssadlon@brtrc.com](mailto:ssadlon@brtrc.com)

### **BMO Director Speaks at International Biometric Symposium**

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 4, 2004 – John D. Woodward, Jr., the Director of the U.S. Department of Defense Biometrics Management Office, addressed the Second Annual International BSI-Symposium on Biometrics in Darmstadt, Germany. Sponsored by Germany's Federal Office for Information Security (BSI), this symposium attracted leading policymakers, technologists, and academic experts from Europe, the United States, and Asia. In his speech, Mr. Woodward explained the role that biometrics can play in achieving better identity assurance for the U.S. Department of Defense. He presented an update on efforts underway at the Biometrics Management Office and Biometrics Fusion Center to encourage the use of biometric technologies across the Department. He also explained the need to make better use of biometric technologies as part of ongoing counterterrorism efforts.

To provide historical perspective, he explained that biometrics, or the use of personal traits for human recognition, developed rapidly in Europe and the United States in the late nineteenth century in response to the criminal justice systems' requirement to identify repeat criminal offenders. From this requirement, fingerprinting eventually became a legally accepted means of human identification.

The BSI-Symposium, which centered on the theme of "Biometrics in the Reflection of Requirements," included sessions on international standards development, particularly as related to ensuring interoperability of large-scale deployment of biometrics, and test and evaluation practices to determine performance of biometric systems.



The Department of Defense Biometrics Management Office and its technical center, Biometrics Fusion Center, located in West Virginia, support various inter-agency and international cooperative efforts for biometrics. For example, they interact with the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, the Department of Transportation, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Transportation Security Agency, and others in the National Science and Technology Council Biometrics Research and Development Interagency Working Group. The Biometrics Management Office Director also serves as a member of a Joint United Kingdom-United States Consultative Group on Biometrics, composed of government officials from both countries.

Following up on the BSI-Symposium, greater cooperative efforts with Germany's Federal Office for Information Security in test and evaluation and other technical activities are planned.

###

*The Department of Defense Biometrics Management Office is the central entity within DoD responsible for leading, consolidating, and coordinating the development, adoption, and institutionalization of biometric technologies for Combatant Commands, Services, and Agencies, to support the warfighter and enhance Joint Service interoperability. The Secretary of the Army is the DoD's Executive Agent for developing and implementing biometrics technology.*